AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for determining taxes for a transaction by applying tax rules specified using configurable templates in a computer system, comprising:

      receiving the transaction ~~for which taxes are to be determined~~;

      examining a configurable template associated with a tax rule, <u>which specifies the configurable template to use for a tax computation process,</u>

      ~~wherein the configurable template identifies a set of attributes associated with the transaction,~~

      wherein the configurable template includes <u>one or more</u> drivers<u>,</u> <u>wherein a driver identifies an attribute</u> ~~to facilitate the configuration and reusability of the configurable template in the tax rules, wherein the drivers are the attributes~~ <u>which is</u> associated with the transaction <u>and which is an input to the tax computation process</u>, and

      <u>wherein the configurable template identifies one or more condition groups, wherein a condition group is a combination of values and conditions associated with the drivers in the configurable template, and wherein the condition group specifies one or more conditions that must be satisfied for the tax computation process to arrive at a result;</u>

      ~~wherein the tax rule is produced by the computer system using the configurable template from abstracted tax authority rules;~~

      ~~examining a set of conditions for the set of attributes;~~

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22   determining whether each condition in a first condition group is satisfied

23   by comparing the value of the set of attributes associated with the transaction to

24   the value stored with the condition in the driver template;

25   ~~when~~ responsive to each condition in the ~~set of conditions is~~ first

26   condition group being satisfied, using ~~a process~~ the result of the tax computation

27   process associated with the ~~set of conditions in determining~~ first condition group

28   to determine a tax for the transaction; ~~, wherein the process result indicates the~~

29   ~~outcome of a process associated with the condition; and~~

30   responsive to any condition in the first condition group not being satisfied,

31   using the result of the tax computation process associated with a second condition

32   group in order of precedence to determine the tax for the transaction in response

33   to each condition in the second condition group being satisfied; and

34   ~~wherein when the tax rule does not apply to the transaction and additional~~

35   ~~tax rules exist~~ responsive to none of the one or more condition groups identified

36   by the configurable template is satisfied, ~~the method further comprises~~ applying

37   ~~the next~~ a second tax rule, which specifies a second configurable template for a

38   second tax computation process, in ~~the~~ order of precedence in the process of

39   determining the tax for the transaction ~~, wherein the additional tax rules are~~

40   ~~applied in a sequence determined by a precedence ordering of the additional tax~~

41   ~~rules~~.

1   2-4.   (Canceled)

1   5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the order of

2   precedence of the tax rules ~~ordering~~ allows the user to configure the system in a

3   way that more specific tax rules are applied before more general tax rules are

4   applied.

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1   6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a

2   user to modify configurable templates associated with the tax rules.

1   7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies

2   whether or not a specific tax is applicable to the transaction.

1   8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule

2   specifies a tax rate that is used in determining the tax amount for a tax applicable

3   to the transaction.

1   9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule

2   specifies a tax status that is used in determining the tax amount for a tax

3   applicable to the transaction.

1   10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule

2   specifies a taxable basis formula that is used in determining the tax amount for a

3   tax applicable to the transaction.

1   11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule

2   specifies a tax calculation formula that is used in determining the tax amount for a

3   tax applicable to the transaction.

1   12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule

2   specifies a tax recovery rate that is used in determining the tax recovery amount

3   for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1   13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule

2   specifies a result that is used in determining the outcome of any process of

3   determining or administering taxes that are applicable to the transaction.

1   14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein

2   determining the tax for the transaction involves:

3   determining which taxes are applicable to the transaction;

4   determining a taxable basis for the transaction;

5   determining an applicable tax rate for the transaction; and

6   calculating the tax for the transaction.

1   15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein different

2   sets of tax rules can be associated with different local jurisdictions.

1   16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule,

2   the configurable template and the ~~set of conditions~~ <u>first condition group</u> reside in

3   a database.

1   17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax

2   rules specified using configurable templates are applied to processes other than

3   determining taxes such as processes of administering taxes.

1   18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tax

2   rules specified using configurable templates are applied to a few but not all of the

3   processes for determining or administering taxes.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the system~~

2   ~~allows the tax rules to be created~~ <u>further comprising creating the tax rules</u> for a

3   hierarchy of tax regimes in such a way as to allow the specification of a general

4   rule for a higher-level regime, and increasingly specific rules down the regime

5   hierarchy to the level of taxes in the lowest level of regime.

1   20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the system~~

2   ~~allows the tax rules to be defined~~ <u>further comprising defining the tax rules</u> for

3   subscribers according to an open subscription model that allows sharing of rules

4   across subscribers in a subscription hierarchy.

1   21.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium

2   storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to

3   perform a method for determining taxes for a transaction by applying tax rules

4   specified using configurable templates in a computer system, the method

5   comprising:

6   receiving the transaction ~~for which taxes are to be determined~~;

7   examining a configurable template associated with a tax rule, <u>which</u>

8   <u>specifies the configurable template to use for a tax computation process,</u>

9   ~~wherein the configurable template identifies a set of attributes~~

10   ~~associated with the transaction,~~

11   wherein the configurable template includes <u>one or more</u> drivers<u>,</u>

12   <u>wherein a driver identifies an attribute</u> ~~to facilitate the configuration and~~

13   ~~reusability of the configurable template in the tax rules, wherein the~~

14   ~~drivers are the attributes~~ <u>which is</u> associated with the transaction <u>and</u>

15   <u>which is an input to the tax computation process,</u> and

16   <u>wherein the configurable template identifies one or more condition</u>

17   <u>groups, wherein a condition group is a combination of values and</u>

18   <u>conditions associated with the drivers in the configurable template,</u> and

19   wherein the condition group specifies one or more conditions that must be

20   satisfied for the tax computation process to arrive at a result;

21   ~~wherein the tax rule is produced by the computer system using the~~

22   ~~configurable template from abstracted tax authority rules;~~

23   ~~examining a set of conditions for the set of attributes;~~

24   determining whether each condition in a first condition group is satisfied

25 by comparing the value of the set of attributes associated with the transaction to

26 the value stored with the condition in the driver template;

27   ~~when~~ responsive to each condition in the ~~set of conditions is~~ first

28 condition group being satisfied, using ~~a process~~ the result of the tax computation

29 process associated with the ~~set of conditions in determining~~ first condition group

30 to determine a tax for the transaction; ~~, wherein the process result indicates the~~

31 ~~outcome of a process associated with the condition; and~~

32   responsive to any condition in the first condition group not being satisfied,

33 using the result of the tax computation process associated with a second condition

34 group in order of precedence to determine the tax for the transaction in response

35 to each condition in the second condition group being satisfied; and

36   ~~wherein when the tax rule does not apply to the transaction and additional~~

37 ~~tax rules exist~~ responsive to none of the one or more condition groups identified

38 by the configurable template is satisfied, ~~the method further comprises~~ applying

39 ~~the next~~ a second tax rule, which specifies a second configurable template for a

40 second tax computation process, in ~~the~~ order of precedence in the process of

41 determining the tax for the transaction ~~, wherein the additional tax rules are~~

42 ~~applied in a sequence determined by a precedence ordering of the additional tax~~

43 ~~rules~~.

1   22-24. (Canceled).

1   25.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the <u>order of</u> precedence <u>of the tax rules</u> ~~ordering~~ causes more

3   specific tax rules to be applied before more general tax rules are applied.

1   26.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the method further comprises allowing a user to modify

3   configurable templates associated with the tax rules.

1   27.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies whether or not a specific tax is applicable

3   to the transaction.

1   28.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax rate that is used in determining the

3   tax for the transaction.

1   29.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax status that is used in determining the

3   tax amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1   30.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies a taxable basis formula that is used in

3   determining the tax amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1   31.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax calculation formula that is used in

3   determining the tax amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

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1   32.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax recovery rate that is used in

3   determining the tax recovery amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1   33.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule specifies a result that is used in determining the

3   outcome of any process of determining or administering taxes that are applicable

4   to the transaction.

1   34.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein determining the tax for the transaction involves:

3   determining which taxes are applicable to the transaction;

4   determining a taxable basis for the transaction;

5   determining an applicable tax rate for the transaction; and

6   calculating the tax for the transaction.

1   35.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein different sets of tax rules can be associated with different local

3   jurisdictions.

1   36.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21, wherein the tax rule, the configurable template and the ~~set of conditions~~

3   <u>first condition group</u> reside in a database.

1   37.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2   claim 21 wherein the tax rules specified using configurable templates are applied

3   to processes other than determining taxes such as processes of administering

4   taxes.

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1   38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of

2 claim 21, wherein the tax rules specified using configurable templates are applied

3 to a few but not all processes for determining or administering taxes.

1   39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of

2 claim 21, wherein the ~~system allows the tax rules to be created~~ <u>method further</u>

3 <u>comprises creating the tax rules</u> for a hierarchy of tax regimes in such a way as to

4 allow the specification of a general rule for a higher-level regime, and

5 increasingly specific rules down the regime hierarchy to the level of taxes in the

6 lowest level of regime.

1   40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of

2 claim 21, wherein the ~~system allows the tax rules to be defined~~ <u>method further</u>

3 <u>comprises defining the tax rules</u> for subscribers according to an open subscription

4 model that allows sharing of rules across subscribers in a subscription hierarchy

1   41. (Canceled).